UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.7/1995/15/Add.2
17 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Thirty-eighth session
Vienna, 14-23 March 1995
Item 7 of the provisional agenda *

MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

Strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination in drug control

Report of the Executive Director

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*E/CN.7/1995/1

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in its resolution 3/5 of 6 May 1994 on coordination and cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 1 (XXXVII) of 20 April 1994 on the same subject, decided to take steps towards enhancing active cooperation between the two bodies in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations activities in areas of mutual concern and interest. Each Commission welcomed the activities jointly undertaken by UNDCP and the Branch, as described in a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/7), and recommended that their coordinated activities be sustained and expanded.

2. Each Commission welcomed with appreciation the two conferences that were hosted by the Government of Italy in 1994, namely the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime: a Global Approach, held at Courmayeur, Italy, from 17 to 21 June 1994, and the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, from 24 to 26 October 1994. UNDCP and the Branch were requested, within the framework of their respective mandates and within existing financial resources, to cooperate in activities related to the above-mentioned conferences, as well as those related to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995.

3. Each Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure continued coordination of the activities of UNDCP and the Branch, with a view to, inter alia, considering an increase in their capacity to undertake mutually compatible operational activities in their fields of competence in order to meet the existing and emerging needs of Member States, as resources permit. UNDCP and the Branch were also requested to report jointly and annually to each Commission on progress achieved in strengthening coordination.

4. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/16 of 25 July 1994 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, requested that UNDCP give favourable consideration to assisting the Branch in the formulation and execution of technical assistance projects in areas of mutual concern.

I. JOINT ACTIVITIES

5. UNDCP has participated in a number of major meetings convened by the Branch, including regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress, and in the two conferences referred to in paragraph 2 above. At the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime: a Global Approach, UNDCP presented a paper and circulated model legislation relating to the control of the proceeds of crime.

6. A number of joint operational projects have been undertaken by UNDCP and the Branch. Of particular note was a training seminar on institution-building and improvement of crime control measures, held at Kiev for police officers from 20 February to 3 March 1995. It dealt with fundamental concepts of police work in a democratic society and drug trafficking, and was designed to promote cooperation between agencies within the criminal justice system, such as prosecution authorities, courts, corrections and legal services, addressing their role in society with reference to United Nations norms and standards in crime prevention and criminal justice. The seminar was the first phase of a plan of work that will be implemented over a period of 18 months. Further activities are planned on a joint basis, including regional workshops and advisory services on law enforcement cooperation and the development of measures against money-laundering for States of eastern Europe and Central Asia. A major joint project is also planned on the prevention and control of organized crime in an Asian country. UNDCP has supported, and will continue to support, those activities with both funding and expertise.

7. UNDCP, with the assistance of the Branch, organized a legal workshop, held at Pretoria in November 1994, on subregional cooperation against drug trafficking. In particular, the Branch provided expert assistance on matters relating to corruption, which was addressed at the ministerial level, and practical measures were devised to deal with the problem.

8. The Branch and UNDCP have shared expertise in the areas of extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters. UNDCP has contributed to preparatory work for the workshop on extradition to be held at the Ninth Congress, and will participate in the expert panel at the workshop, especially in respect of the extradition provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[1], which will serve as an example of a multilateral extradition treaty. Contributions will also be made by UNDCP to the manuals, being prepared by the Branch for presentation to the Ninth Congress, on implementation of the United Nations model treaties on those subjects. In addition, the Branch has made available to UNDCP its roster of experts for the selection of participants in working groups and of suitable candidates for the provision of funding to attend specialized seminars on those and other matters relating to international cooperation to reduce transnational crime. Such cooperation led UNDCP and the Branch jointly to support the Conference on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters held at Christ Church College, Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, from 5 to 9 September 1994, which was organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

9. UNDCP and the Branch have also cooperated on a number of other matters. For example, UNDCP provided input on narcotics-related law in the context of a request for advisory services by an African State for a draft penal code. Information has also been exchanged. For instance, the Branch has provided UNDCP with criminal-justice-related information on such topics as alternatives to imprisonment and non-custodial measures. The Branch further participated in a working group on model money-laundering and confiscation legislation for civil law countries, which was convened by UNDCP.

II. COORDINATION

10. The Branch has continued to participate in the work of the Subcommittee on Drug Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, through, *inter alia*, its contributions to papers prepared by the Subcommittee for presentation at meetings dealing with drug-related matters, such as the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, as well as its involvement in the working group on inter-agency information exchange, which reports to the Subcommittee.

11. A number of meetings have been held by UNDCP and the Branch to discuss approaches to increasing their respective capabilities for cooperation and coordination. To that end, focal points have been established, and a joint committee will regularly review activities of mutual interest as well as the institutional arrangements necessary to implement them. Areas for ongoing liaison and coordination have been identified, including regular exchanges of information, such as project summaries, information on major events and missions on a quarterly basis, annual work plans, particularly relating to the development of legislation and to projects to promote judicial cross-border cooperation, as well as research papers and other documents. Information contained in the rosters of experts is also made available to the other party, and the possibility of establishing a joint database on technical cooperation is being explored.

12. UNDCP and the Branch intend to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination along the lines described above, on both a formal and informal basis.

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[1] E/CONF.82/15 and Corr. 2.